



SUMMER

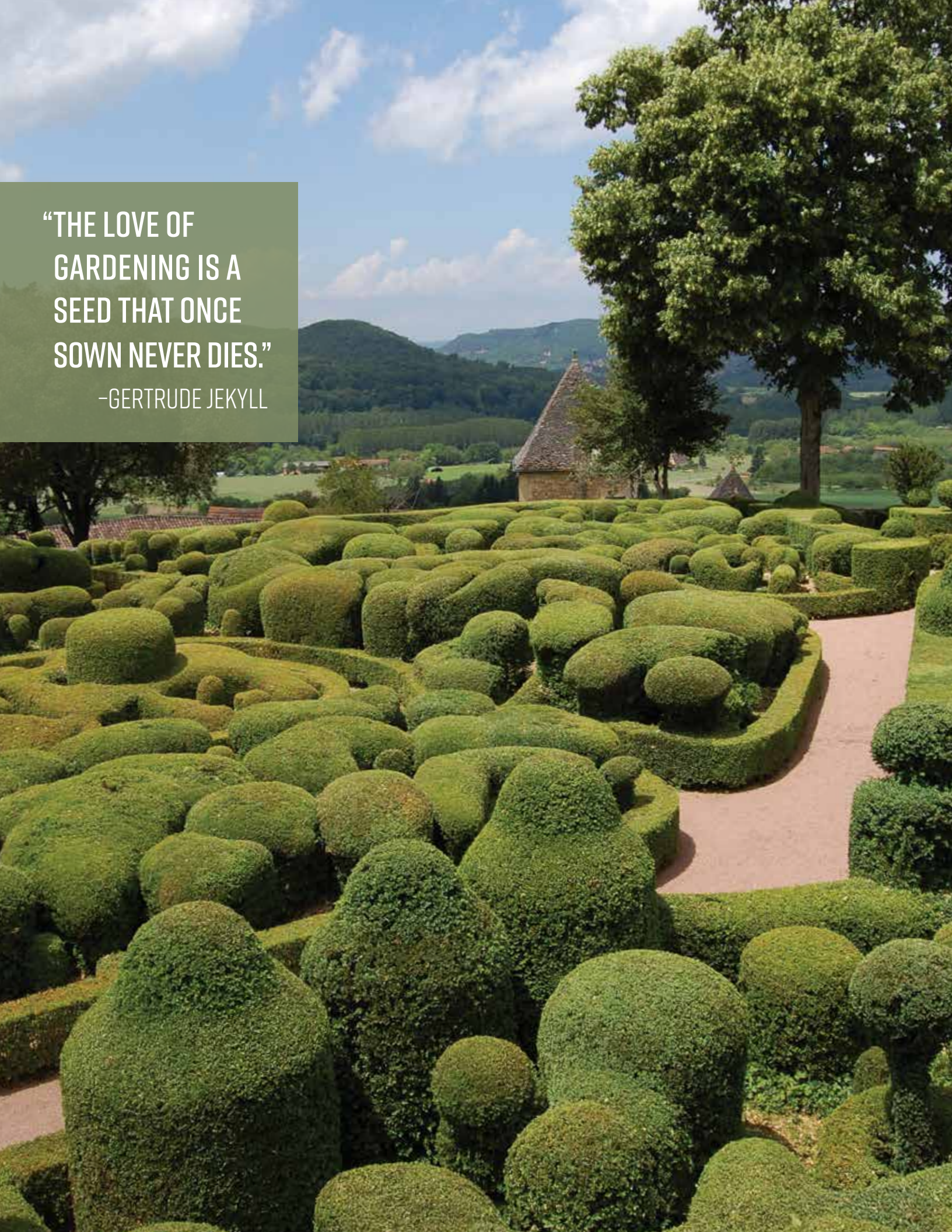
2025

Zinnia elegans

 YEW
DELL
BOTANICAL
GARDENS

“THE LOVE OF
GARDENING IS A
SEED THAT ONCE
SOWN NEVER DIES.”

—GERTRUDE JEKYLL



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

A good friend recently sent me a text asking me to join a group of friends and family in a gift project for his soon-to-be high school graduate daughter. He asked us to send him something we wish our 18-year-old self knew back then—all to be assembled into a book. My submission—"Do what you love, no matter what it is. Do it with the most passion you can muster. Everything else will fall in place, even if it does take its time."

Sure, not a particularly original thought, but passionate pursuit of what brings you joy and meaning . . . it made me think of a crazy uncle (everyone has one, right?) who, upon hearing I was going to study landscape architecture in college, asked, "and what are you going to do to make a living?" Looking back, kinda glad I didn't let him derail my chosen direction.

And when I look around at our staff at Yew Dell, I see that passionate pursuit everywhere I look. Some of our staff knew on day one, exactly where they were headed. Others spent some time playing the field before falling headfirst into what they do at Yew Dell, be it plants, food, finance, or shop. And you will see that passion play out in everything we do.

The unveiling of the Castle Gardens — our stunning \$5 million garden project — is nothing short of that passion manifested in some of the most creative design, meticulous horticulture technique, and construction excellence. But it would not be possible without the equally passionate finance,

outreach, marketing, fundraising and other work that are essential parts of the whole that is Yew Dell.

And beyond the Castle Gardens project, you don't have to look very far at Yew Dell to see more passion. The program list on offer this summer carries the theme far and wide. High-end Garden to Table dinners, Fabulous Fridays happy hour events, every Saturday plant walks, and of course the ever-popular Bourbon & Botanicals concert series — there is always plenty of passion on display for you to enjoy and plenty of reasons to visit, and visit often.

Happy Gardening!

Paul Cappiella



Scan the QR code to register & for more info.

Register right away—classes will fill quickly!

All listed programs are scheduled to be in-person unless otherwise noted.



PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



BOURBON & BOTANICALS

THURSDAYS, JULY 10, 17, 24, AND 31, AND AUGUST 7, 14, 21, AND 28

The summer tradition returns with eight nights of live local and regional music. We've balanced the lineup with longtime favorites plus "soon-to-be favorite" new performers. Bring the family. Make it a date night. Either way, get your tickets soon. They sell out fast!

EACH NIGHT'S TIMELINE

5:30 PM Gardens, Martha Lee's Café, and Garden Gift Shop open
Grab your favorite spot
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Plant Walk with Horticulture Staff
7:00 PM - 8:45 PM Live music at the covered Rounsavall Pavilion

TICKETS

Members 18-64 = \$25, 65+ = \$20, 6-17 = \$20, 5 and younger - free
Non-member 18-64 = \$30, 65+ = \$25, 6-17 = \$25, 5 and younger - free

2025 LINEUP AVAILABLE AT YEWDELLGARDENS.ORG



SATURDAY PLANT WALKS WITH HORTICULTURE STAFF

EVERY SATURDAY, THROUGH NOVEMBER 29 • 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Level up your gardening skill or just enjoy a guided plant walk with our awesome and knowledgeable horticulture staff — **every Saturday!** This is the perfect opportunity to bring that long list of garden questions and conundrums. Topics vary with the season.

Saturday Plant Walks are included with admission.

DATE AND TOPICS AVAILABLE AT YEWDELLGARDENS.ORG

FABULOUS FRIDAYS — MONTHLY HAPPY HOUR IN THE GARDENS!

JULY 25, AUGUST 29, SEPTEMBER 26, AND OCTOBER 31 • 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

What better way to kick off the weekend than meeting friends amidst the stunning setting at Yew Dell. Join us for **Fabulous Fridays Happy Hour** on the **last Friday of each month** for a delightful selection of wines, seasonally-themed cocktails, and mocktails, along with **garden-fresh creations** from our own Chef Mike. Maybe even toss a corn hole beanbag for some fun. The gardens will be blooming, the music will be playing, and the fun will be flowing. Free admission for Fabulous Fridays!

CHILDREN IN THE DELL

SATURDAYS: JULY 5, 12, 19, AND 26

10:30 AM - NOON

This long-running, family favorite returns for the summer, and pollinators are this year's theme. Each Saturday our instructors will lead you through themed crafts and activities for families to enjoy/create together. Children in the Dell is drop-in and is included with admission.

No registration is required.



HERBARIUM SHEETS: COMBINING SCIENCE & ART

MEMBERS \$50 / NON-MEMBERS \$60

In this two-part workshop, discover the history, science, and art of creating herbarium sheets with Dr. Jeff Masters, Department of Biology at University of Louisville, and make an original piece of art based on flowers from your own garden.

SESSION 1 - SATURDAY, JULY 12 • 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Overview of the traditional use of herbarium sheets, how to select specimens, and inexpensive ways to press flowers.

SESSION 2 - SATURDAY, AUGUST 9 • 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Bring your dried specimens to create inspired works of art documenting your floral surroundings.

Ticket fees include all workshop supplies—you'll supply the dried flowers.



BLOOMS & BUBBLY: FLOWER ARRANGING WITH A TWIST — TWO DATES!

SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2025 • 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025 • 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

MEMBERS \$60 / NON-MEMBERS \$70

April's edition was such a smashing success, we've added two summer dates! What better way to spend a Sunday afternoon than sipping a mimosa, enjoying a few snacks, and playing with flowers? Join Yew Dell cut flower wizard, Jill Tinius, for this delightful session on selecting, prepping, and arranging. She will guide you through crafting your own arrangement to take home using some of her favorite summer flowers grown right here on the grounds.

Ticket fee includes all supplies.

FLOWER PRESERVATION WITH SAYDE

SUNDAY, JULY 20 • 10:00 AM - NOON • MEMBERS \$45 / NON-MEMBERS \$55

Join Garden and Arboretum Manager, Sayde Heckman, as she shares tricks of the trade to preserve floral bounty from the gardens. From pressing and hanging to drying and saving, you'll learn how to preserve flowers, petals, leaves, and other cool stuff and how to use these techniques year-round to retain the beauty of nature for wreaths, ornaments, and other decor items. Attendees will go home with a filled flower press to continue the experience on their own. Ticket fee includes all supplies.

SENSORY TEA-TASTING WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, JULY 26 • 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM • MEMBER \$55 / NON-MEMBER \$65

With engaging stories and a wealth of experience, instructor Emily Ann Cotton will share fascinating insights into the history, culture and health benefits of tea. This hands-on workshop will allow you to use all your senses to appreciate and create the perfect cup and appreciate the importance of drinking with mindfulness. You'll learn tea prep techniques and use tasting wheel to learn how to use all your senses and discover subtle flavors and notes in each sip. Ticket includes all materials, tasting guide, and an herbal tea plant for your garden.



NATURE'S BATH ROLLER BALLS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2025 • NOON–1:30 PM

MEMBERS \$50 / NON-MEMBERS \$60

Get on a ROLL! Join Tonya Tate, owner of Nature's Bath, as she steps you through the different essential oil blends to help you tailor your very own aromatherapy Roller Ball. After learning about the benefits of various essential oils and botanicals, you're in charge of mixing your own blend in a roller-ball applicator.



GARDEN TO TABLE DINNER – SUMMER EDITION

SUNDAY AUGUST 17 • 5:00 PM–8:00 PM

\$75 INCLUDES FOOD AND TWO COCKTAIL TICKETS

Join us for the second in this series of seasonal, small dinner parties hosted in all the coolest places around Yew Dell's gardens and grounds. This intimate experience with garden-inspired passed appetizers, small plates, craft cocktails and sweet treats, will all be curated and created by Chef Mike. And this guy is as pumped up about awesome, fresh, local food as some of us plant geeks are about Himalayan blue poppies—and that's saying something. Only 40 spots available for this exclusive event so get your group together and lock up a spot.

BOTANICAL DYE: FORAGING

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23 • 10:00 AM–11:30 AM

MEMBERS \$40 / NON-MEMBERS \$50

Local botanical artist, Briahna Michalsky, returns for another session on botanical dyes. In this class you'll learn how to turn items foraged from forest, field, and garden to create surprising color results. You'll use demonstrated techniques to create a custom small cotton tote bag or throw pillowcase. This is a beginner-level course, and a previous Botanical Dye workshop with Briahna is not required. **Please note that foraging for items at Yew Dell is prohibited.**

Ticket fee includes all supplies.



FALL WREATHS FROM THE GARDENS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 • 10:00 AM–NOON

MEMBERS \$75 / NON-MEMBERS \$85

Wreaths aren't just for the winter holidays! As the gardens start to slow down, they provide an abundance of material for decorating. Join Garden & Arboretum Manager, Sayde Heckman, as she shares the fun and guides you through the process of building your own wreath with material collected around the gardens.

FALLING INTO GRATITUDE & MINDFULNESS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 • 10:00 AM–NOON

MEMBER \$25 / NON-MEMBER \$35

Usher in the fall season with this workshop on mindfulness offered in the autumn glory of the garden. Guided by Karen Newton, Wellbeing & Resilience Integrator, this workshop is an opportunity for you to find a restorative and affirming shift in wellbeing as we explore mindfulness meditation practices with curiosity and kindness. Karen will guide a variety of meditation forms, including walking, eating, sitting, gratitude and sound. Participants will experience what it means to be in a state of mindfulness. No experience with meditation is required.

Ticket fee includes all supplies.



TWILIGHT IN THE GARDEN – 2025

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 • 6:00 PM

TICKETS \$200 / TABLE OF 8 \$1,600

Join us for a fabulous evening in the garden—one of the best parties in town and a great way to support Yew Dell. Start off with cocktails in the surroundings of Yew Dell's newly opened \$5 million Castle Gardens—a setting like no other. Then move to the covered pavilion for a sumptuous dinner by Volare, silent and live auctions, and a great evening with friends.

For sponsorship opportunities contact TJ Slaughter
(tjs@yewdellgardens.org/502.241.4788)



FALL PLANT SALE!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 • NOON–4:00 PM

INCLUDED WITH REGULAR ADMISSION – FREE FOR CURRENT MEMBERS

If you need plants, this is the place to be! Yew Dell's annual **Fall Plant Sale** is the garden event of the season. Featuring hundreds of varieties of shade and sun plants, all grown here in our own nursery, you also get access to our incredibly knowledgeable horticulture staff who can answer your questions and help you pick out winner combinations for your own garden. And once you've filled your cart with plants, stop by **Martha Lee's Café** for some of Chef Mike's awesome fare to fuel you up for planting once you get home. Hit the **Garden Gift Shop** before you leave to round out a great day in the garden.





Vaia!

**A PROJECT LIKE THIS DOESN'T COME
TOGETHER WITHOUT A TRULY MAGICAL TEAM.**

Thank you to:

- Designer Richard Hartlage and his team at Land Morphology for pushing the envelope and for enthusiastically embracing the creative energy of Yew Dell.
- General contractor, EZ Construction, project manager Ben Davis, and all the subcontractors who collaborated to pull it all together.
- Our incomparable Yew Dell staff members for a heroic effort from raising and installing plants to site coordination, fundraising, finance, and more.
- And of course, all our generous donors, volunteers, and supporters who make it all happen!



EZ Construction Inc., did brilliant work as the project general contractor, making sure every detail was perfect.



Our Oldham County neighbors at East & Westbrook Construction fabricated and installed custom steel railing work and finishing touches on the three monumental arbors.

SPEND A DAY IN THE GARDEN

READY-MADE OUTINGS FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS



A DAY WITH THE KIDS

- Check out the houses of the **Fairy Forest**, write a letter to the fairies, and even build your own ephemeral fairy house.
- Take in a Saturday morning **Children in the Dell** session that is free with admission.
- Refuel with a fantastic **lunch or a root beer float in the Café** so you're ready to wind up your visit with a **hike on the woodland trails**.
- Or come out for one of our **Fabulous Fridays**—an all-ages happy hour for the whole family.

GIRLS (OR GUYS) DAY OUT

- Start the day off with a **class or workshop** (see pages 2 & 3).
- Capture your trip by snapping a few pictures of the group in the new Castle Gardens (we recommend the top of the Walled Garden steps after it opens on June 22!).
- Enjoy a luscious lunch and a glass of wine or a cocktail overlooking the pollinator meadow.
- Hit the **Garden Gift Shop** for a few goodies or a few plants to add to your garden.



LUNCH OUT WITH FRIENDS

- You keep talking about getting together, but . . . here's the perfect opportunity.
- Not a Yew Dell member? Admission for your first Café lunch is on us, 'cause we know once you've been, you'll want to come back again . . . as a member!



DATE NIGHT OUT

- **Fabulous Fridays** happy hour in the garden the last Friday of the month featuring music wafting through the gardens, cash bar with specialty cocktails, light bites from Chef Mike, and free admission!
- Or take in one of our **Bourbon & Botanicals** concerts, Thursdays in July and August, featuring great music, a stunning setting, cash bar, and sumptuous food offerings from the Café. Set up a whole summer of date nights by purchasing tickets for the whole series!
- Prefer the more active style? Sign up for a class or a workshop for two—or come for a **Garden to Table Dinner**. We think there's not a better date deal in town!

SPEND SUMMER EVENINGS IN THE GARDEN



FABULOUS FRIDAYS – LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH HAPPY HOUR

Enjoy . . .

- Cash bar with seasonal, specialty cocktails.
- Garden Fresh creations from Chef Mike of Martha Lee's Café.
- Music floating throughout the gardens.
- Lawn games.
- All ages event.
- And free admission!



CELEBRATE FRESH, LOCAL FOOD AT THIS SUMMER'S GARDEN TO TABLE DINNER

- Exclusive, intimate dinner setting among Yew Dell's stunning gardens.
- Sumptuous dinner bites featuring fresh, local ingredients.
- Specialty seasonal cocktails.
- Meet and greet with Yew Dell's Chef Mike of Martha Lee's Café.
- Sunday, August 17th.



BOURBON & BOTANICALS CONCERT SERIES

- Enjoy eight local bands.
- Blues, Jazz, Bluegrass, Classics . . . you name it!
- Cash bar with seasonal specialty cocktails.
- Varied dinner menu and snacks from Martha Lee's Café.
- Perfect date night or fun for the whole family.
- Thursday evenings in July and August.

What to see in the gardens this summer

With so much happening across the grounds this year, we asked Garden and Arboretum Manager, Sayde Heckman, for her thoughts on what the garden visitor should look for in the gardens this summer . . .

ANNUALS AND TROPICALS

Sayde is known far and wide for her vibrant annual/tropical borders. But this year she points to her garden team – each of whom has taken the lead on this year's displays in the garden zones they manage.

- Look for Rhiannon's favorites in the Log Cabin food garden, including trellised bitter and sweet melons.
- Cosmo shares Log Cabin garden responsibilities with Rhiannon and is interested in seeing what some of the drying peppers will do this year.
- Hayden is experimenting this year with flowering tobaccos that will be planted along the entrance garden path.
- And our newest gardener working on Sayde's team, Gabby, is tending both the Entrance Gardens and Garden Cottage plantings and is just waiting to see what Sayde has up her sleeve for this summer.
- Overall, Sayde says to look for combinations of old favorites including Euphorbia 'Breathless' (that she likes much more than the standard 'Diamond Frost') and three varieties of sweet potato vine. Overall, she says the annual beds will have far more flowers and less emphasis on foliage this year.



Look for Rhiannon's trellised melons and Cosmo's peppers in the veggie garden this summer.



Kintzley's Ghost honeysuckle will be featured on one of the Castle Gardens monumental arbors.

CASTLE GARDEN PLANTINGS

So much interesting and new in the new gardens. Of particular note is the allée of Kentucky Coffeetrees (*Gymnocladus dioica*) between the castle and house. These magnificent specimens were grown by our friend Ben Cecil at Riverfarm Nursery in Goshen. One of the arbors will be sporting a young specimen of *Lonicera reticulata* 'Kintzley's Ghost' an awesome Kentucky selection of this native honeysuckle with stunning yellow flowers and silvery bracts that last all summer. And on the kitchen terrace, there are two 'Okame' flowering cherries. This selection came from the US National Arboretum breeding program and has the amazing ability to sustain below freezing temperatures in full bloom with no freeze damage.

NEW EVALUATION GARDEN PLANTINGS

- The last several years have seen amazing diversity in the shrub and herbaceous evaluation gardens.



Even more hydrangeas being added to the shrub evaluation garden in 2025.

Hydrangeas, butterfly bushes (*Buddleia*), honeyberry (*Lonicera caerulea*) selections, red hot pokers (*Kniphofia*) and more . . . But it's time for a change.

- This year our garden crew will be respacing the hydrangea evaluation plantings and adding new varieties. New evaluation plantings will also include coral bells (*Heuchera*) (in containers, 'cause we like them better in containers than in the ground?) big bluestem (*Andropogon*) and little bluestem (*Schachyrium*) varieties. And an evaluation we've been working on for some time – hardy garden mums. Wait till you see them this fall!

MEET OUR NEW STAFF

Plants aren't the only thing growing around here. We've added some new staff to make sure we continue to bring you the very best plants, gardens, programs, food . . . the best visit possible.



AARON MEDINA - GROUNDS MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

Aaron and his wife recently moved here from Denver, Colorado, where he worked in the landscaping and groundskeeping industry for 14 years. He says he hates the cold and loves the heat and humidity – good thing! Aaron has always dreamed of working at a botanical garden and is looking forward to sharing his passions with the next generation.



LUCKY RONQUILLO - FOOD SERVICE ASSOCIATE

If you've had lunch at Martha Lee's Café at Yew Dell, you've probably already met Lucky. She works with Chef Mike to bring you all those fabulous soups, salads, sandwiches . . . and of course those magical cookies.



GABBY HAMILTON - GARDEN ASSISTANT

The newest addition to our garden team, Gabby first came to Yew Dell as a volunteer when she was in high school. Now, after earning a degree in environmental science at Samford University, she is "thrilled to be back in the place that first sparked my passion and helped shape my career path."



LIMBWALKER

Louisville's Urban Forest Experts



Rhiannon, Gabby, Hayden, and Cosmo prepping annuals for the summer borders.



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Discover SUMMER at Yew Dell



Millstone Garden
Bottlebrush Buckeye (*Aesculus parviflora*)



Rounsavall Pavilion Garden
Ornamental Onion (*Allium 'Millenium'*)



Arboretum South
Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)



Arboretum North
Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*)



Rounsavall Pavilion Garden
Buttonbush
(*Cephalanthus occidentalis 'Kolmoon'*)



Next to the Log Cabin
Cut Flower Garden



Parking Lot
Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)



Log Cabin
Herbs and Vegetables
in the Edible Garden



Parking Lot
Rattlesnake Master
(*Eryngium yuccifolium*)



Parking Lot
Joe-Pye Weed (*Eutrochium fistulosum*)



Rain Garden
Neches River Rose Mallow
(*Hibiscus dasycalyx*)



Shrub Evaluation Garden
Smooth Hydrangea
(*Hydrangea arborescens*)



MEMBERSHIP

the base of Yew Dell's support

Since day one more than 20 years ago, it has been our members who have urged us on and helped us along. We wouldn't be where we are today without that essential membership support.

- If you've been a member all along – Thank you!
- If you're a relatively new member – Thanks for joining the Yew Dell family!
- If your membership has lapsed (check the mailing label on this newsletter) we understand. Life happens. But my how things have changed at Yew Dell. New gardens, new programs, new Café. . . now is the perfect time to re-up your membership.
- And if you've never quite pulled the trigger, maybe a brand new \$5 million garden is just the nudge you've needed? Give Yew Dell membership a try. We think you'll be glad you did!

LEGACY GIVING

Here's a simple question. If you're a Yew Dell member/supporter, (thank you!) have you ever thought about how you could continue that support with a Legacy or Estate Gift? Many people make the mistake of thinking that planned giving is only for those with great wealth. But the truth is that a planned gift at any level can be a valuable tax planning tool as well as a great way to support Yew Dell into the future.

Here's a simple calculation for an example of a fictitious member's support in a year:

Annual Membership Renewal	\$100
Two Classes/Workshops	\$ 80
Four Lunches at the Café	\$ 80
Year-End Donation	\$100
Total Annual Support	\$360

A planned gift held in Yew Dell's endowment yields a 4% annual contribution to Yew Dell's operating fund. An estate gift of \$9,000 at 4% would yield that \$360 annually . . . forever!

We'd be delighted to talk with you if a planned gift is something you might consider.

The Long and Winding Road

Plants and gardens (and those who tend them) are famous for having intricate, sometimes slightly fabulized stories that create some of the magic that makes gardens, gardens.

As we worked through the Castle Garden's planting plan, there emerged a need for a block of large yews—we're Yew Dell, after all. The Land Morphology design team suggested 8-foot-tall *Taxus 'Hicksii'*, a reliable, upright yew variety that has been in the market for decades. Problem is, finding 8-foot specimens wasn't going to be easy.

Never shying away from a challenge, Horticulture and Facilities Director, Jacob Stidham, got to work. Using his broad industry contacts he ended up connecting with Carl and Rhonda Jackson of Jackson's Nursery in Greensburg, Indiana. Turns out, not only did they have big yews in the field, they actually have a connection to Yew Dell. It seems that years ago, they traded cuttings and grafting wood with Jules Klein, the eldest of the four Klein children of Theodore and Martha Lee Klein who built and tended the farm and nursery that eventually became Yew Dell Botanical Gardens.

The yews in question turned out to be *Taxus 'Hilli'*—a dense and slow growing form rarely encountered in the business—and they are magnificent. Carl told us they rooted the cuttings for these specimens 30–40 years ago. That makes these plants older than some of our gardeners who will be tending them. And Carl and Rhonda were so excited to have some of their plants at Yew Dell, they actually delivered the plants personally. Now that's service!

When you next visit Yew Dell, check out the new dwarf Hicks yews and take a minute to reflect on the 30 years of tending, weeding, watering, and care that was their long and winding road to their new garden home.



*Digging 8-foot-tall *Taxus 'Hilli'* at Jackson's Nursery*



This is what more than 240 years of total growth in a nursery row looks like.



The Hand Off—Carl Jackson and Yew Dell's Jacob Stidham perform both the ceremonial and physical transfer of the plants from Jackson's Nursery to Yew Dell.



Carl Jackson poses with his 30-year-old yews after delivering them to Yew Dell.



Yew Dell's Jacob Stidham carefully unloading the new yews for the Castle Gardens.



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Yew Dell Botanical Gardens is a partnership project of the Garden Conservancy,
a national, non-profit organization founded to help preserve America's exceptional gardens.

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